

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 2

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,024,606 to Ming-Hwa. This determination is respectfully traversed.

The scope and content of the Ming-Hwa reference as it relates to independent claims 1, 11 and 17 has been discussed in detail throughout prosecution of the present application. In order to expedite the present discussion, application refers to the Examiner's Response to Arguments contained in paragraph 4 of the present Office Action. The Examiner states:

Applicant's attention is directed to Figs. 1-2 in which the Ming-Hwa reference clearly discloses the sleeve (13) having at least one protrusion (16) encircling less than full circumference of the locking sleeve. Applicant is reminded that grooves (14') as shown in Fig. 1 precludes the protrusion from being a full circle. Applicant is also reminded that Column 3, Lines 6-15 of the Ming-Hwa reference states that the protrusions (16) are formed on each claiming section (14) and separated by slots or grooves (14). It is noted that feature 14' is not mentioned in Ming-Hwa's specification, but a closer look at the reference shows that the features described as slots 14 in Column 3, Line 9, are supposed to be features 14'. Specifically, Ming-Hwa discloses features 14 as being clamping plates or sections through out all the specification and not a slot. Then, it is not possible for separate protrusions (16) to cover a full circumference since the grooves (14') would represent parts that would actually split the circumference.

Claims 1 and 11 of the present invention are directed to a connector for terminating a coaxial cable. The connector includes a generally cylindrical connector body and a locking

sleeve coupled to the connector body. Claim 1 recites that the locking sleeve includes at least one protrusion formed thereon partially encircling less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. Claim 11 recites that the locking sleeve includes a plurality of protrusions spaced circumferentially around the locking sleeve.

It is apparently the Examiner's position that the Ming-Hwa reference shows at least one protrusion encircling less than a full circumference of the locking sleeve. The Examiner asserts that element 16 of the Ming-Hwa reference is that protrusion. Applicants have previously argued that Ming-Hwa does not clearly disclose that the protrusion extends anything other than fully circumferentially around the wall of the locking sleeve. There is no disclosure whatsoever in Ming-Hwa to suggest otherwise. In fact, the element referred to as the protrusion by the Examiner, i.e., projecting shoulder 16 is referred as an annular member (Abstract, line 16). This itself would teach away from any suggestion that the shoulder can be anything other than fully circumferential about the locking sleeve. The Examiner has chosen not to address this.

The Examiner is reminded that the rejection of claims 1 and 11 is based on anticipation. It is incumbent on the Examiner to find that each and every element of the claimed subject matter is clearly disclosed within the four corners of the reference. Such clear disclosure is not found in the Ming-Hwa reference. Notwithstanding all of the Examiner's suppositions, there is

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 4

no clear disclosure that the annular projecting shoulder 16 of Ming-Hwa extends anything but fully around the locking release.

Turning to the Examiner's arguments, the Examiner states that the projecting shoulder 16 must be less than a full circle. The Examiner goes on to explain that a clamping section (plate) 14 is separated by slots or grooves 14. The use of the same reference numeral 14 to designate both the clamping section and slots of the groove is the Examiner's own usage. The Examiner, however, says that slots 14 described in column 3, line 9, of Ming-Hwa are supposed to be features 14'. However, the Examiner has no support for this assertion. Moreover, the only location where the element 14' is shown is in Figure 1, which is a plan view of the locking sleeve. The exact location of element 14' cannot be determined as it relates to the protrusion 16. It is noted that in Figure 1 the protrusion 16 is not even shown.

In making an anticipation rejection, the Examiner has selected features which are not clearly disclosed nor clearly explained in the Ming-Hwa reference and equates them with claimed features of the present invention. A proper anticipation rejection requires more direct correlation between the cited reference and the claimed subject matter than the speculation offered by the Examiner. Lacking clear disclosure of the claimed features, Ming-Hwa cannot anticipate claims 1 and 11. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As it relates to claim 17, the Examiner contends that:

Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 6 in which Ming-Hwa clearly discloses the locking sleeve (20) insertably received through the cable receiving end (shown in Fig. 2) of the connector body (combination of 13 and 30). The combination of 13 and 30 can be considered the connector body since the claims do not call for the connector body to be a one piece body. Furthermore, Ming-Hwa shows (in Fig. 2) the cable receiving end of 13 which is part of the connector body, as defined by the Examiner, and receives the locking sleeve 20 as shown in Fig. 6.

Claim 17 clearly recites that the locking sleeve is insertable through the cable receiving end of the connector body. Ming-Hwa simply fails to show this arrangement.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's contention, the clamping tube 20 of Ming-Hwa is not insertably received through the cable receiving end of the connector body 30 or a combination of 13 and 30. The locking sleeve 20 of Ming-Hwa could not fit through the cable receiving end of the connector body 30. The Examiner's attention is called to the far right end of the connector shown in Figure 6. An inwardly directed annular lip narrows the cable receiving opening. The clamping tube 20 could not fit within that reduced diameter opening, therefore, it must be inserted from the left side of the connector as shown in Figure 6. Therefore, the locking sleeve 20 cannot be insertably received through the same end through which the cable is inserted.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 6

Again, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to show each and every element of the claimed invention in order to support an anticipation rejection. Ming-Hwa fails to show a locking sleeve insertable through the cable receiving end of the connector body. As such Ming-Hwa cannot anticipate claim 17. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

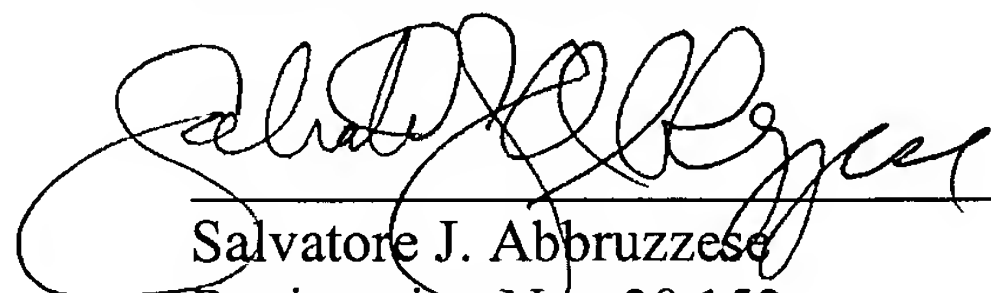
In summary, independent claims 1, 11 and 17 are not anticipated by the Ming-Hwa reference. Therefore, the claims which depend therefrom are similarly patentably distinct over Ming-Hwa. The application, including claims 1-20 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 7

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Abbruzzese", is written over a horizontal line.

Salvatore J. Abbruzzese
Registration No.: 30,152
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700